

PART 4:  
God Wants you  
to be Happy

# STUFF JESUS NEVER SAID



Note to Leaders: Every Link is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus never said “God wants you to be happy.” The theology of happiness says:

1. Whatever makes me happy must be right. Whatever makes me unhappy must be wrong.
2. Discomfort, delay, risk, suffering, inconveniences, and obstacles can't be God's will.
3. Without knowing it, I begin to worship the false gods of comfort, money, pleasure, and things.

While God delights in our happiness. It is not his priority. Specifically, God doesn't want you happy when:

1. When it causes you to do something wrong or unwise.
2. When it is only based on things of this world.

God, however, wants you to be blessed. It doesn't mean that you won't have a bad day. It doesn't mean your kids won't fight. It doesn't mean your car won't break down. These things happen. What it means is, you will experience the goodness of God in the middle of some of the difficulties of life. Your happiness and the blessings are not based on the perfect pain-free life. God never promises that.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that just plain make you happy? What does culture say you need to be happy? How much of your day do you spend seeking out things that make you happy?
2. Read Proverbs 14:2. Think of a time you did something wrong or unwise in pursuit of happiness. Are you currently being tempted to do something wrong or unwise?
3. What are some mini-gods in your life—stuff, perfection, having your way, control, feeling good?
4. What is the scariest part about replacing the pursuit of happiness with the pursuit of God?
5. List out loud some of the things in your life you think you should value higher than happiness?
6. Read Psalm 37:1-7. Think about how you delight in the Lord. How have you experienced the blessings of God even when life isn't going the way you want? As a group, how can we model to each other what it looks like to delight in God instead of just pursuing happiness?
7. Read Matthew 5:3-10. What are the characteristics of people who are blessed. How can you exhibit these characteristics?

## MOVING FORWARD

Are you counting on something in the future like a job, spouse, house, or education to make life better? What step will you take this week to put your hope in Christ instead? Choose 1-2 things that you've been putting in front of God and skip them for a week. Replace them with time with God.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

God does not want us to pursue happiness. God wants us to pursue Him.